REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-48, 50, 51, 53-77, 79-83, 85-88, and 90 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 48, and 83 are amended by the present amendment.

Amendments to the claims find support in the application as originally filed, at least at page 9, lines 5-14 and Figure 1. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3 and 4 were objected to; Claims 1, 3-9, 11-26, 30, 31, 36-38, 44, 45, 48, 50, 51, 53-68, 70, 71, 75, 77, 80-83, 85-88, and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,185,413 to Mueller et al. (herein "Mueller") in view of U.S. Patent 6,101,379 to Rahman et al. (herein "Rahman"); Claims 27-29, 39, 67-69, and 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mueller in view of Rahman and U.S. Patent 6,427,076 to Skog; Claims 32-35 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mueller in view of Rahman and U.S. Patent 6,014,546 to Georges; and Claims 40-43, 46, 47, and 72-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mueller, Rahman, and U.S. Patent 6,122,263 to Dahlin et al. (herein "Dahlin").

Regarding the objection to the claims, Claims 3 and 4 are amended to properly depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1, 3-9, 11-26, 30-31, 36-38, 44-45, 48, 50, 51, 53-68, 70-71, 75, 77, 80-83, 85-88 and 90 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mueller and Rahman, with respect to amended independent Claims 1, 48, and 83.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of operating a mobile telephone in a cellular telephone communications system in which a plurality of service providers provide respective alternative communications channels within said cellular telephone communications system. The method includes, in part, storing routing information in a look-up table of the mobile telephone such that the table is populated with data in the form of preferred route codes. Each preferred route code includes route information regarding a preferred route for connection to a respective call destination using a preferred mobile network service provider and a preferred land line network service provider. In addition, the method includes selecting one of the communication channels of the mobile network service provider in the selected preferred route code and transmitting the selected preferred route code via the selected communication channel to establish communication for the outgoing telephone call for a call destination corresponding to the call destination information via the mobile network service provider and the land line network service provider in the selected preferred route code. Independent Claims 48 and 83 include similar features but are directed to a mobile telephone for use in such a system, and a portable storage medium for use in such a mobile telephone.

In a non-limiting embodiment, Applicants' Figure 1 shows an example of a method of operating mobile telephone 1 to make a telephone call to a destination telephone 2. According to this example, the mobile telephone 1 includes a least cost route table 3 (e.g., a look-up table) that includes preferred route codes having route information regarding a preferred route for connection to a respective call destination. The mobile telephone may communicate with plural base stations 4A, 4B, and 4C of respective cellular mobile telephone networks 8A, 8B, and 8C each connected to the land line telephone networks 5A, 5B, and 5C.

The base stations in this example are arranged to provide cellular communication over an air interface 9 with mobile telephones in cells local to each base station. Each cell of the cellular telephone system will typically define a geographical area within which mobile telephones can operate on any one of a number of frequencies depending on the selected service provider. The communication facilities provided by a single service provider are referred to as a channel that the service provider makes available for multiple users.

According to the example of Figure 1 and the discussion in the specification at page 8, line 27 to page 9, line 14, a preferred route selection initially identifies a mobile telephone network that should receive the outgoing call from the telephone 1. In some instances, there will remain a number of available options for forward connection from the mobile telephone network 8A of a given service provider to the telephone 2. For example, such a mobile connection may be made via any one of the land line networks 5A, 5B, and 5C. The selected route may also define the preferred land line network and this may be accomplished by prefixing a route code transmitted to the mobile network service provider with a prefix code that identifies the preferred land line network.

Applicants respectfully submit that Mueller and Rahman fail to teach or suggest each of the features of the amended independent claims. For example, Mueller and Rahman fail to teach or suggest storing routing information regarding a preferred route for connection to a respective call destination using a preferred mobile network service provider and a preferred land line network service provider. Mueller describes a system that is able to determine a most cost efficient provider for a desired transmission connection. In particular, Mueller indicates that selection is performed in a two-step process by first determining which mobile radio networks are available and then determining the most cost efficient mobile radio network for a desired transmission connection.[1] In other words, Mueller merely describes

[1] Mueller at column 7, lines 26-45.

selecting a best transmission or mobile radio network medium for a call connection but does not indicate that a particular call connection is made via a preferred mobile network service provider and a preferred land line network service provider.

Rahman describes a mobile terminal based tariff acquisition system for wireless services that includes transmitting a request for tariff information from a mobile terminal over a control channel to a candidate service provider. In particular, Rahman indicates that a mobile telephone initiates a tariff inquiry request to all candidate service providers which may be operating in a particular geographical area 18. According to Rahman a geographical area 18 may contain multiple service providers, each providing substantially similar service and area of coverage, in which the individual providers may operate in accordance with a variety of wireless standards.[2] In other words, Rahman describes selecting between plural different service providers in a geographical area to make a cellular telephone call using the particular selected service provider. However, Rahman also fails to teach or suggest any routing information regarding a preferred route for making a connection using a preferred mobile network service provider and a preferred land line network service provider.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submitted that Mueller and Rahman, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest "storing routing information in a look-up table of the mobile telephone such that the table is populated with data in the form of preferred route codes, each preferred route code including route information regarding a preferred route for connection to a respective call destination using a preferred mobile network service provider and a preferred land line network service provider," as recited in independent Claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent Claims 48 and 83.

[2] Rahman at column 3, lines 20-23.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections of Claims 1, 3-9, 11-26, 30, 31, 36-38, 44, 45, 48, 50, 51, 53-68, 70, 71, 75, 77, 80-83, 85-88, and 90 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of Claims 27-29, 32-35, 39-43, 46, 47, 67-69, 72-74, 76, and 79 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mueller, Rahman, and Skog, Georges, or Dahlin. Applicants respectfully submit that Skog, Georges, and Dahlin fail to teach or suggest the claimed features lacking in the disclosures of Mueller and Rahman.

Accordingly, dependent Claims 27-29, 32-35, 39-43, 46, 47, 67-69, 72-74, 76, and 79, which depend from amended independent Claims 1, 48, or 83, are believed to patentably define over Mueller, Rahman, Skog, Georges, and Dahlin, whether taken individually or in combination.

Thus, it is respectfully requested those rejections also be withdrawn.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 48, and 83, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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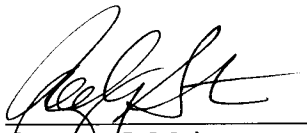

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